

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's Action mailed on June 30, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 2, and amended claims 1, 3 and 6-7. Claims 10-13 have been added. Claims 1 and 6 are the independent claims. Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The drawings have been objected to for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the bottom frame movably coupled within the outer frame (claims 1 and 6) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner, as well as other informalities noted during the review.

It is requested that the objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 has been objected to because of informalities. In response, claim 2 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the objection is now moot.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hayashimoto et al.* (US Patent No. 6,870,582). Claim 2 has been canceled. It is submitted that amended claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

It is well settled that a reference may anticipate a claim within the purview of 35 USC §102 only if all the features and all the relationships recited in the claim are taught by the reference either by clear disclosure or under the principle of inherency.

Applicants' amended independent claim 1 recites a backlight module, including: an outer frame, an upper frame, a bottom frame, a reflector and at least a light source. The upper frame is removably coupled within the outer frame and having a receiving space. The bottom frame is removably coupled to the outer frame or the upper frame for enclosing the receiving space. The reflector is disposed in the receiving space and on the bottom frame. The light source is disposed in the receiving space and above the reflector. When the backlight module is inverted, the bottom frame can be separated from the outer frame and then the reflector can be removed, and the light source can be exchanged after both the bottom frame and the reflector are removed. That is, the receiving space of the upper frame is used for receiving the reflector and the light source, and is enclosed by the bottom frame when the bottom frame is coupled to the upper frame.

In contrast, *Hayashimoto et al.* disclose a liquid crystal display device including a first frame member 12, a metal body 20, a frame-like cover 36, a backlight 34, scattering sheets 45,46 and a liquid crystal display element 38. The backlight 34 includes a light guide plate 41, fluorescent lamps 42, and a reflection film 43. The metal body 20 includes a bent metal plate which has four vertical

peripheral walls 20a and a bottom wall 20b surrounded thereby to define an accommodation space for receiving the backlight 34 and the scattering sheets 45, 46. (Col. 3, line 48 – Col. 4, line 23; and FIGS. 5 & 7). In assembling, the reflection film 43, fluorescent lamps 42, the light guide plate 41, and the scattering sheets 45, 46 are sequentially received in the accommodation space of the metal body 20; then the metal body 20 is covered by the frame-like cover 36 along with the liquid crystal display element 38; and lastly the first frame member 12 and the metal body 20 are engaged together. (Col. 4, lines 23-27; Col. 5, lines 18-24; and FIGS. 5-6). It should be noted that, when exchanging the fluorescent lamps 42, the metal body 20 is first disengaged from the first frame member 12 and uncovered by the frame-like cover 36 along with the liquid crystal display element 38. Then, the scattering sheets 45, 46 and the light guide plate 41 have to be taken out from the accommodation space of the metal body 20 to reach the fluorescent lamps 42 for replacement.

However, and in contrast to the present invention, *Hayashimoto et al.* fail to disclose (or even to suggest) that the upper frame has a receiving space for receiving the reflector and the light source. Further, there is no disclosure (or even a suggestion) from *Hayashimoto et al.* that the receiving space of the upper frame is enclosed by the bottom frame, as recited in claim 1. Instead, the metal body of *Hayashimoto et al.*, relied on by the Examiner as being the bottom frame, has an accommodation space for receiving the backlight 34 and the scattering sheets 45, 46. In particular, when exchanging the fluorescent lamps 42 in the

backlight 34 of *Hayashimoto et al.*, the metal body 20 is first disengaged from the first frame member 12 and then uncovered by the frame-like cover 36 along with the liquid crystal display element 38, and next the scattering sheets 45, 46 and the light guide plate 41 have to be taken out from the accommodation space of the metal body 20. This is similar to the prior art disclosed in FIG. 1 of the present application, in which the ion frame 102, the upper plastic frame 104 along with the LCD panel 108, and the multiplayer optical films 110 and the light guide plate 114 have to be sequentially removed in order to exchange the CCFL 112.

As such, it is submitted that Applicants' independent claim 1, as well as the claims 3-5 dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by (or rendered obvious by) the cited reference. It is therefore requested that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hayashimoto et al.* (US Patent No. 6,870,582). It is submitted that the rejection is inapplicable to these claims.

Applicants' amended independent claim 6 recites a process of changing a light source in a backlight module, including the following steps: providing the backlight module; inverting the backlight module and separating the bottom frame from the outer frame; removing the reflector from the receiving space after removing the bottom frame; and exchanging the light source after removing the bottom frame and the reflector sequentially. The backlight module includes an outer frame, an upper frame, a bottom frame, a reflector and a light source. The

upper frame is removably coupled with the outer frame and has a receiving space for receiving the reflector and the light source. The bottom frame is removably coupled to the outer frame or the upper frame for enclosing the receiving space. The reflector is disposed on the bottom frame, and the light source is disposed above the reflector.

In contrast, *Hayashimoto et al.* fail to disclose or suggest providing a backlight module including an upper frame having a receiving space for receiving the reflector and the light source and enclosed by a bottom frame. Instead, the metal body of *Hayashimoto et al.*, relied on by the Examiner as being the bottom frame, has an accommodation space for receiving the backlight 34 and the scattering sheets 45, 46. Further, *Hayashimoto et al.* fail to disclose or suggest exchanging the light source after removing the bottom frame and the reflector sequentially. Rather, there is no need to remove the reflection film 43 of *Hayashimoto et al.* from the accommodation space of the metal body 20 when replacing the fluorescent lamps 42. Instead, *Hayashimoto et al.* disclose the reflection film 43, fluorescent lamps 42, the light guide plate 41, and the scattering sheets 45, 46 are sequentially received in the accommodation space of the metal body 20, and users therefore can reach the fluorescent lamps 42 only after taking out the scattering sheets 45, 46 and the light guide plate 41 disposed above the fluorescent lamps 42.

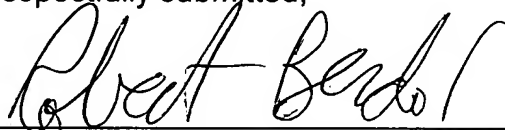
As such, it is submitted that Applicants' amended independent claim 6, as well as the claims 7-9 dependent therefrom, are patentable over the cited reference. It is therefore requested that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1 and 3-13, is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



September 20, 2005  
Date

Robert H. Berdo, Jr. – Registration No. 38,075  
RABIN & BERDO, PC – Customer No. 23995  
Facsimile: 202-408-0924; 202-408-5297  
Telephone: 202-371-8976

RHB:vm